

# THE DAILY HERALD

Salt Lake City, - - Utah.

THURSDAY, - - NOVEMBER 26, 1885.

THE DAILY HERALD is published every morning, Monday excepted, at 7 o'clock, at the Herald Block, corner West Temple and First South Streets, Salt Lake City, by J. H. HERALD, PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY. Subscription price \$10.00 per annum in advance; single copies, 5 cents. To weekly subscribers, collections made by carriers, 25 cents a week.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY HERALD is published every Wednesday and Saturday morning, at \$3.50 per year; six months, \$1.75; postage included.

THE WEEKLY HERALD is published every Thursday morning at \$2.00 a year; six months, \$1.00; postage included.

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## THANKSGIVING.

At least twice during the dark days of the Revolution the Continental Congress appointed by proclamation a day for thanksgiving and praise. The 18th of December, 1777, was once when the army was in winter quarters at Valley Forge. General Washington's orderly book under date of the 17th, contains the following: "To-morrow being the day set apart by the honorable Congress for public Thanksgiving and Praise, and duty calling us devoutly to express our grateful acknowledgments to God for the manifold blessings he has granted us, the General directs that the army retire to its private quarters, and that the chaplains perform divine service with their several corps and brigades; and earnestly exhort all officers and soldiers, whose absence is not absolutely necessary, to attend with reverence the solemnities of the day."

Before the Revolution there were Thanksgiving days in Massachusetts. At the close of the war and the return of peace, the custom and not become general, being still confined to New England. Gradually the custom extended as New England people found their way into the western states, and formed little societies among themselves, but not until the breaking out of the war for the Union did Thanksgiving become national in its character. Then it was that the sense of national dependence upon divine favor was quickened, and President Abraham Lincoln, by executive proclamation, invited all the people to give thanks to God for his goodness, and pray that His protection and favor might be continued. Since the reassertion of peace the practice which had been inaugurated at a time of national peril and sorrow, has been continued and maintained with a degree of faithfulness that amounts almost to reverence. Annually is the feast of the ingathering kept in every part of this broad land, and every where have the sons and daughters of New England carried the fond memories, as well as their reverence for their ancestors and the old homestead, "The only day that is better established in the hearts of the American people is the Christmas, that is so merry and consoling in its significance. The demand is from all that the President of the republic designate one day each year for Thanksgiving. In this there is unity among the people—a unity that is significant of a warmer affection and closer brotherhood than we are apt to believe exists when watching the everyday lives of the units who make up this great nation.

This is the day designated by President Cleveland, and it will be celebrated as a festival day by fifty-five millions of people. The sons and daughters of those who used to feast and pray on the shores of the Atlantic will celebrate it on the Eastern coast, amid the valleys and mountains, on the broad prairies and on the shores of the Pacific. The farm, the wood, the mine, the range, the mill and the workshop will all know the Thanksgiving, and exult in the goodness of heaven.

Never has there been a time when the American people could better celebrate the day in its true significance than to-day. The year has passed without deadly strife or devastating plagues; earth has bounteously yielded its increase; honest, faithful industry has been fairly rewarded, and toil received its just compensation; there has been little lack of employment for those who wanted to work, willing hands everywhere finding something to do.

Here in Utah a cloud has been passing and is not yet gone; it has brought some sorrow and suffering, and a few are enduring hardship and torture; but the year has been a prosperous one in the main, and all will find in the past twelve months much for which to thank the Giver of all good gifts. We can all be thankful.

THE HERALD hopes the day will be one of peace, of joy, of kindly feelings, of the uplifting of the heart, of good deeds, and of moderation in pleasure; of that enjoyment and recognition of obligations which shall make us all better than we were before.

## A SAD CONDITION.

A shocking thing about this local sensation over the arrest of a few well known men on the charge of lewd and lascivious conduct is the position that one portion of the community is taking on the question. The Federal officials, with two or three exceptions, are

squarely opposed to the enforcement of the law, and with them is the faction that is fighting the Mormons, and its newspaper organ. The United States Marshal is represented as doing all in his power to extricate his deputy from the latter's unhappy position, and assistance to Vandercreek is aid and comfort to every one of the accused. Mr. Vandercreek rushed frantically to the Chief Justice with an appeal for rescue. His prayer is not based on the ground of innocence of the charge, but is an appeal to His Honor to exercise his power and defeat justice. The newspaper which is the recognized mouthpiece and champion of the accused and those who are interesting themselves in their behalf, violently assails the police for having made these arrests, charging fraud, dishonesty and lack of good faith, and even asserting the innocence of the defendant, some of whom are manly enough to confess their guilt.

All of this shows a deplorable lack of honesty, sincerity and integrity. There is but one question involved in this matter with which honest law-loving and law-abiding men can deal at present, and that is the simple question of the enforcement of the law. There is a city ordinance declaring lewdness and lasciviousness a misdemeanor, and fixing a punishment for those who are found guilty. While that ordinance is on the books and not held by a competent tribunal to be invalid and void, it is just as much a law as any act of Congress, and its observance and enforcement are as binding upon individuals and officers as any living statute by whatever legislative body enacted. The police, in obedience to their oaths and in the performance of their duty, claim to have learned that certain men have violated the ordinance and made themselves liable to the punishment provided. It is not the affair of others how the information was obtained nor in what manner the evidence was secured, so long as the business was done lawfully and in the line of police duty; but it is the affair of every honest man, of what ever party or faith, that the law be enforced. To say otherwise, is to argue in favor of lawlessness and against putting a check on criminals and evil-doers. Nor is it something against which the honest men will protest, that the accused have professed a love for sexual purity and been active in waging a war against those charged with sinning against the moral law. This is the affair of the defendants themselves, with which the officers and the public can have nothing to do. All that the officers must know in the enforcement of the law is that it has been broken; the social position of the violators, and what their professions have been are matters of which the law takes no cognizance.

Why is it that these officials and individuals are setting themselves so strongly against the enforcement of an ordinance that all admit is a necessity in the community? Do they desire to be understood as being advocates of non-restriction of such vices and offenses as are charged against the men who have been arrested? It must be that the above is their position, or they assume a worse one—that a crime is no crime when committed by a man who professes a hatred of the Mormons. This latter is the true attitude of those who are so much exercised over these arrests. They cannot deny it. If instead of Marshal Vandercreek, some well known Mormon had been arrested on the charge of lewd and lascivious conduct, the men and the newspaper who are bending all their energies in an effort to save the hypocritical deputy from the prison or chain gang, would be doing all in their power to convict the accused and bring him to punishment.

It is deplorable that this factional condition of things should exist in the community, but it does exist, and often defeats justice, as it threatens to do in this instance.

## VICE-PRESIDENT HENDRICKS.

When the nation recovers from the shock it received last evening, it will go into deep mourning for Thomas A. Hendricks, one of the few men of the age and country who combined greatness and goodness. Such men as he have been rare in every age; when one has risen, he has stood out among his fellows, a moral and patriotic model for his countrymen, an example to young men and the admiration of the middle-aged and old. The active, busy men of this age have been familiar with his name all their lives, since early boyhood. Mr. Hendricks was not yet an old man, as the long time that he had been before the public would indicate, but his ability early brought him into prominence and kept him there. While others were coming up and passing away all around him, he moved grandly and steadily onward and upward, until Wednesday's call, which without warning took him hence, depriving the nation of one whose aid and assistance, counsel and support in which it stood in so much need and which it expected to enjoy for these many years.

Since 1838, when he entered the Legislature, his life has been familiar to the public, for with only brief interruptions he was a Representative or Senator in Congress, Commissioner of the General Land Office, Presidential or Vice-Presidential candidate, or in some place or position where he stood before the eyes of the nation; and his career

was remarkable, for it was uniformly upward, and socially, politically and officially pure and spotless. For whom among our nationally prominent men can as much be said?

The Vice-President was 66 years of age last September. The particulars of his death have not been received at this writing.

## ALFONSO.

Poor King Alfonso has passed away, his brief career as man and monarch being ingloriously terminated by dysentery. The young man was really a clever fellow with fairly good ideas and proper instincts. He was a great improvement morally, over his progenitors, for he came of a stock that was bad through and through. He lacked the ability and force of character of a great ruler, and his subjects were the most unruly people on earth professing civilization; but he was able to bring something like order out of chaos, and to put his kingdom on the road to redemption and salvation. If there were a strong man to take up the work where Alfonso left off, he could continue the elevating process until Spain would be lifted into a position of prominence among the nations.

Alfonso's life was full of annoyance, vexation and danger. He never knew what it was to be safe or happy; his long struggle for the crown was followed by dangers and troubles which made life hardly worth living. His death is a relief. May he find the rest and contentment on the other side that were denied him here.



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